

CPO 4034 – Politics of Developing Nations
Spring 2019 (MWF 3-3:50)
FLO 100

Victoria Gorham
Anderson Hall TBD
mvgorham@ufl.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30-3:00

This semester, we will work on understanding what causes the disparities between the “developing world,” (by which we are most often referring to countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East), and advanced industrial countries, meaning North America, Western Europe, and Japan. We will explore what causes these countries to be generally less economically successful, more prone to conflict, and less well governed. Part of discussing these dynamics will be focusing on the relationships between economic development and factors like conflict, resource wealth, geography, and governing institutions. In an effort to think through problems of development from both a macro- and micro- level, we will also consider the perspectives and roles of both the states themselves and the individuals that live in them. What are states doing that stalls economic development? What can they do to change? How do these policies affect individuals and how do the actions and choices of ordinary people influence economic development?

This course will be relatively reading intensive. I’d recommend that you read the syllabus in advance and plan to have all readings prepared (that means read in depth!) before class on the day that the readings are scheduled. You’ll see that the portion of the total grade allocated to participation (10%) is quite high; this is because I see being prepared to show up and contribute your ideas, your comments, and your questions in class as a central component of effectively learning the material. That means you really need to have the readings prepared each time you come to class and to be ready to engage in discussion with your peers. Part of your grade will also be derived from your participation in any small group work we do in class.

Grade Breakdown: two exams, each worth 20% (40% all together), four quizzes, each worth 5% (20%), participation in class discussion (10%) and in class group work (10%), final project (20%).

Final project: the final project for this class will be a group presentation where you will put together a case study of a country (of your group’s choice) and focus on issues of development. I will assign groups early in the semester so that you have plenty of time to get to know one another and decide on a topic and division of labor. Your group for the presentation will also be your group for in-class group work. The grade will be divided in two parts: the content of the presentation and the class presentation itself (including questions from the class). I understand that public speaking can be intimidating, but know that **all members of the group are expected to contribute to the oral presentation**. If you don’t speak during the presentation, it will affect your grade individually; otherwise, you will be graded as a group.

Your assignment is to choose a country as a group that would qualify as a “developing country” and prepare a presentation that focuses on issues of development. You should first inform us of the basic information about the country: where is it located? What is its economic situation? What kind of government and institutions does it have? How much aid is it getting from the international community? Second, you should apply three of the main arguments that we’ve encountered in class to explain the cause(s) of development problems in this country. In this section, you should also make a case for which explanation your group finds most convincing. In your case, did Collier explain it best? Acemoglu and Robinson? This section should show that you understood the arguments being made in the literature we encountered in

class and that you can apply it to a contemporary case. Finally, make some policy suggestions. Do you think more aid would help? What about a change in governance? Explain your logic and convince the class that your solution will help. There will be a brief question and answer portion after your presentation.

This may seem daunting, but we'll talk about it in class and I will provide you with class time periodically to meet with your groups and get started on the project. I will provide a rubric breaking down the points in advance of your presentations. In addition to presenting the project, I'll require you to submit your group's slides to me via email on the first day of presentations. No exceptions on the due date or the format of submission. Please note my office hours at the top of the syllabus – if your group is having trouble getting started or working on some component of the project, come to my office hours sooner rather than later for help.

Attendance: for this class, you are allowed two absences, no questions asked. Any further unexcused absences (this means absences without a doctor's note, an excuse from the university, or another acceptable excuse) will result in five points (for each absence) from your participation grade.

Required Books:

Acemoglu, Daron and James Robinson. 2013. *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*. New York: Random House.

Banerjee, Abhijit and Esther Duflo. 2012. *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty*. Public Affairs.

Collier, Paul. 2007. *The Bottom Billion*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Requirements for make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following numerical scales:

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalent	GPA equivalent
A	93-	4.0
A-	90-92	3.67
B+	87-89	3.33
B	83-86	3.0
B-	80-82	2.67
C+	77-79	2.33
C	73-76	2.0
C-	70-72	1.67
D+	67-69	1.33
D	63-66	1.0
D-	60-62	0.67
E	<60	0.00
E1	stopped attending	0.00
I	Incomplete	0.00

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Student Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Information on UF policies for grading may be found here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obliged to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with me. In this class, any honor code violations result in a failing grade for the course and referral to the DSO.

Important contact information for university counseling services and mental health services: 392-1575, <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>. For the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Course Schedule

Week One: Development and its Measurement

January 7: Course introduction and syllabus review

January 9:

- Amartya Sen, "The Concept of Development."
- Ravallion, Martin. 1997. "Good and Bad Growth: the Human Development Reports." *World Development*. Vol. 25, No. 5.

January 11:

- Collier, *Bottom Billion*, Chapter One
- Acemoglu and Robinson, *Why Nations Fail*, Chapter One
- Banerjee and Duflo, *Poor Economics*, Chapter One

Week Two: Development and Conflict

January 14:

- Collier, *Bottom Billion*, Conflict Trap (Ch. 2)
- Fearon, James and David Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." *American Political Science Review*. Vol. 97, No. 1.

January 16:

- Collier, Paul and Anke Hoeffler. 2004. "Greed and Grievance in Civil War." *Oxford Economic Papers*. Vol. 56, No. 4.
- Keen, David. 2012. "Greed and Grievance in Civil War." *International Affairs*. Vol. 88, No. 4.

January 18:

- Walter, Barbara. 2004. "Does Conflict Beget Conflict?" *Journal of Peace Research*. Vol. 41, No. 3. 17
- Miguel, Edward, Shanker Satyanath, and Ernest Sergenti. 2004. "Economic Shocks and Civil Conflict." *Journal of Political Economy*. Vol. 112, No. 4.

Week Three:

January 21: No class/MLK holiday

January 23:

- Quiz One (covers weeks one and two)

January 25:

- Herbst, Jeffrey. 2004. "African Militaries and Rebellion." *Journal of Peace Research*. Vol. 41, No. 3. 15
- Collier, *Wars, Guns, and Votes*, Chapter 5

Week Four: Development and Resources/Geography

January 28:

- Collier, *Bottom Billion*, Resource Trap (Ch. 3)
- Diamond, *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, Prologue

January 30:

- Diamond, *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, Chapters 5 and 10

February 1:

- Collier, *Bottom Billion*, Landlocked Trap (Ch. 4)

Week Five:

February 4:

- Smith, Benjamin. 2004. "Oil Wealth and Regime Survival in the Developing World." *American Journal of Political Science*. Vol 48, No. 2.
- Sachs, Jeffrey and Andrew Warner. 2001. "The Curse of Natural Resources." *European Economic Review*. Vol. 45, No. 4-6. 12

February 6:

- Acemoglu and Robinson, *Why Nations Fail*, Chapter 2

February 8:

- Acemoglu and Robinson, *Why Nations Fail*, Chapter 3

Week Six: Development and Institutions

February 11:

- Quiz Two (covering weeks three, four, and five)

February 13:

- Acemoglu and Robinson, *Why Nations Fail*, Chapter 4
- Sokoloff, Kenneth L. and Stanley Engerman. 2000. "History Lessons: Institutions, Factors, Endowments, and Paths to Development in the New World," *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*. Vol. 14, No. 3.

February 15:

- Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson. 2001. "The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation." *American Economic Review*, Vol. 91, No. 5.
- Acemoglu and Robinson, *Why Nations Fail*, Chapter 9

Week Seven:

February 18:

- Collier, *Bottom Billion*, Bad Governance Trap (Ch. 5)
- Przeworski, Adam and Fernando Limongi. 1993. "Political Regimes and Economic Growth." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. Vol. 7, No. 3.

February 20:

- Huber, Evelyne, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and John Stephens. 1993. "The Impact of Economic Development on Democracy." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. Vol. 7, No 3

February 22:

- Acemoglu and Robinson, *Why Nations Fail*, Chapter 6

Week Eight: Development and the State – Macro Perspectives

February 25:

- Midterm Exam (in class)

February 27:

- Acemoglu and Robinson, *Why Nations Fail*, Chapters 11 and 12

March 1:

- Acemoglu and Robinson, *Why Nations Fail*, Chapter 13

Week Nine:

March 11:

- Collier, *Wars, Guns, and Votes*, Chapters 1 and 8

March 13:

- Collier, *Bottom Billion*, Ch. 6

March 15:

- Acemoglu and Robinson, *Why Nations Fail*, Chapter 14

Week Ten: Development and the People – Micro Perspectives

March 18:

- Quiz Three (covering weeks seven, eight, and nine)

March 20:

- Banerjee and Duflo, *Poor Economics*, Chapters 2 and 3

March 22:

- Banerjee and Duflo, *Poor Economics*, Chapter 10 and Conclusion

Week Eleven: Development and the International Community

March 25:

- Collier, *Bottom Billion*, Part 4 (Ch. 7-10)

March 27:

- Banerjee and Duflo, *Poor Economics*, Chapters 7 and 9

March 29:

- Easterly, *White Man's Burden*, Chapter 2

Week Twelve:

April 1:

- Acemoglu and Robinson, *Why Nations Fail*, Chapter 15

April 3:

- Collier, *Bottom Billion*, Ch. 11

April 5: No in class meeting – I'll be at the MPSA conference in Chicago.

Week Thirteen:

April 8:

- Quiz Four (covering weeks ten, eleven, and twelve)

April 10:

- Easterly, *White Man's Burden*, Chapter 8

April 12:

- Easterly, *White Man's Burden*, Chapters 10 and 11

Week Fourteen: Presentations

April 15: Class presentations (groups 1-3)

April 17: Class presentations (groups 4-6)

April 19: Class presentations (groups 7-9)

Week Fifteen:

April 22: Finish class presentations, if necessary.

April 24: Class wrap-up and review.

- **Distribution of Take-Home Exam (online – via email or Canvas).**
- **Turn in your Take-Home Exam on the course's Canvas site by Tuesday, April 30 at 9 am.**